

Reusable vs. Disposable Case Study

Excerpt from a Rethink Disposable case study, itemizing the **savings** that a California restaurant saved by switching to reusable products.

Disposable Product Replaced or Minimized	ReThink Disposable Recommendation Implemented	% Disposable Reduction	Payback Period (months)	Annual Quantity of Disposable Product Reduced (# of pieces)	Annual Net Cost Savings* (after payback period)	Annual Waste Reduction (lbs.)
3-compartment bioplastic clamshell	Replace with melamine plate	77%	0.7	8,074	\$1,211	937
1-compartment bioplastic clamshell	Replace with melamine plate	-35% (increase)	-	+1,233 (increase)	-\$185 (increase)	-25 (increase)
1-compartment plastic clamshell	Replace with melamine plate	83%	0.6	7,219	\$623	253
Heavy duty deli plastic soup bowl with lid, 24 oz	Replace with reusable bowl and lid	100%	1.3	3,042	\$401	244
Heavy duty plastic soup bowl with lid, 24 oz	Replace with reusable bowl and lid	7%	0	261	\$42	26
3.25 oz sauce cup	Replace with ramekin	50%	2.8	5,069	\$79	20
3.25 oz sauce cup lid	Eliminate use for dine in	50%	0	5,069	\$59	26
12 oz plastic water cup	Replace with plastic tumbler	100%	0.6	6,518	\$180	169
22 oz paper cup	Replace with plastic tumbler	85%	0	26,001	\$353	28
22 oz paper cup lids	Eliminate use for dine in	64%	0	7,751	\$105	8
Medium weight white fork	Replace with stainless steel fork	77%	0	20,184	\$111	111
Medium weight white knife	Replace with stainless steel knife	55%	0	14,297	\$78	129
Medium weight white spoon	Replace with stainless steel spoon	52%	0	6,280	\$34	38
8 oz lined paper take-out pail	Replace with melamine plate	50%	1.5	876	\$143	19
	Dishwasher Rental				-\$1,962	
*Net Cost Impact considers any upfront and ongoing costs associated with the purchase and care of reusable items and capital improvements needed to carry out ReThink Disposable's recommendations.			TOTAL	109,408	\$1,272	1,984 lbs.

*Net Cost Impact considers any upfront and ongoing costs associated with the purchase and care of reusable items and capital improvements needed to carry out ReThink Disposable's recommendations. Net cost savings are based on avoided disposable foodware purchases.